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1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK		
2	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF N		
3	UNITED STATES OF AMERI	CCA,	
4	V.		13 CR 268 (JMF)
5	MOLLY BLOOM,		
6	Defendant.		
7		x	
8			New York, N.Y. December 12, 2013
9			3:21 p.m.
10	Before:		
11	HON. JESSE M. FURMAN		
12			District Judge
13			
14	APPEARANCES		
15	PREET BHARARA United States Attorney for the		
16	Southern District of New York JOSHUA NAFTALIS Assistant United States Attorney		
17			
18	JAMES WALDEN SARAH VACCHIANO		
19	Attorneys for Def		
20	ALSO PRESENT: ROB HAN	IRATTY, FBI	
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1 (In open court; case called) 2 THE COURT: Good afternoon to all of you. 3 I have been informed that Ms. Bloom intends or wishes 4 to plead guilty to Count Twenty of the indictment 13 CR 268. 5 Is that correct, Ms. Bloom? 6 THE DEFENDANT: That's correct, your Honor. 7 THE COURT: Before I accept your quilty plea I am 8 going to ask you certain questions. These are questions to 9 ensure to my satisfaction that you are pleading quilty because 10 you are, in fact, quilty and not for some other reason; to 11 ensure that you understand the consequences of your quilty 12 plea, including the sentence that could be imposed upon you; 13 and to ensure that you understand the rights that you would be 14 giving up by entering a guilty plea. 15 If at any point you don't understand my questions, I want you to let me know and either your lawyers or I will 16 17 explain the matter to you more fully; or if at any point you 18 want to speak to your lawyers for any reason, just let me know and I will give you however much time you need to do so. 19 20 Do you understand that? 21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 22 THE COURT: I'll ask my deputy, Ms. Barnes, to 23 administer the oath to Ms. Bloom. 24 (Defendant sworn)

Ms. Bloom, you are now under oath which means that if

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you answer any of my questions falsely you could be subject to
prosecution for the separate crime of perjury.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: What is your full name?

THE DEFENDANT: Molly Dubin Bloom.

THE COURT: How old are you?

THE DEFENDANT: Thirty-five.

THE COURT: How far did you go in school?

THE DEFENDANT: Junior year.

THE COURT: Of college or high school?

THE DEFENDANT: College.

THE COURT: Have you ever been treated or hospitalized for any mental illness?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: Are you now or have you recently been under the care of a doctor or a psychiatrist?

THE DEFENDANT: I have not.

THE COURT: Have you ever been treated or hospitalized for any type of addiction, including drug or alcohol addiction?

THE DEFENDANT: In 2011 drugs and alcohol -- drug and

alcohol use contributed to depression so I sought treatment at that time.

THE COURT: And is there anything about either the reasons for your treatment at that time or the treatment itself

Dcc9blop Plea that would interfere with your ability to understand what's 1 2 going on here today? 3 THE DEFENDANT: 4 THE COURT: Have you taken any drugs, medicine or 5 pills or drunk any alcoholic beverages in the past 48 hours? 6 THE DEFENDANT: Sudafed. 7 THE COURT: Is there anything about the reasons for your taking Sudafed or the Sudafed itself that would interfere 8 with your ability to understand what's going on here today? 9 10 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir. 11 THE COURT: I state for the record that I have also 12 taken Sudafed in the last 48 hours. 13 Is your mind clear today, Ms. Bloom? 14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is. 15 THE COURT: Do you understand what is going on here 16 today? 17 THE DEFENDANT: I do. 18 THE COURT: Mr. Walden, have you discussed this matter with Ms. Bloom? 19 20 MR. WALDEN: I have, sir. 21 THE COURT: Does she understand the rights that she 22 would be giving up by entering a guilty plea?

MR. WALDEN: Very well, sir.

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THE COURT: And in your judgment is she capable of understanding the nature of these proceedings?

Dcc9blop Plea 1 MR. WALDEN: She is. 2 THE COURT: Does either counsel have any doubt as to the defendant's competence to plead quilty at this time? 3 4 MR. NAFTALIS: No, your Honor. 5 MR. WALDEN: No, your Honor. 6 THE COURT: On the basis of Ms. Bloom's responses to 7 my questions, my observation of her demeanor here in court and 8 the representations of counsel, I find that she is fully 9 competent to enter a plea of quilty at this time. 10 Ms. Bloom, have you received a copy of the indictment 11 containing the charges against you? 12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I did. 13 THE COURT: Have you read it? 14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. 15 THE COURT: Have you had enough time to discuss with your lawyers the charge to which you intend to plead quilty and 16 17 any possible defenses to that charge? THE DEFENDANT: I have. 18 19 THE COURT: Have your lawyers explained to you the 20 consequences of entering a plea of guilty? 21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, they have. 22 THE COURT: Are you satisfied with their 23 representation of you?

THE COURT: I'm now going to explain to you certain

I am.

THE DEFENDANT:

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rights that you have under the constitution and laws of the United States. These are rights that you would be giving up by pleading quilty. I want you to listen carefully and if there's anything you don't understand let me know and either Mr. Walden or I will explain it to you more fully. First, I have here a written advice of rights form that appears to have been signed by you, dated today, December 12, 2013. Is that your signature on page two of that form? THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is. THE COURT: And before you signed this form, did you read it? THE DEFENDANT: Sorry? THE COURT: Before you signed the form, did you read it? THE DEFENDANT: I did.

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THE COURT: Did you discuss it with your lawyers?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

19 THE COURT: Did they answer all of your questions

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21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, they did.

22 THE COURT: Did you fully understand it before you

23 signed it?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

25 THE COURT: I will mark this Court Exhibit 1 and

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provide it to the government to retain in its possession after these proceedings. I'm also going to go over with you many of the same things orally.

Under the constitution and laws of the United States you have a right to plead not guilty to the charges in the indictment.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: If you did plead not guilty you would be entitled to a speedy and public trial by a jury on the charges in the indictment.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: At that trial you would be presumed to be innocent and you would not have to prove that you were innocent. Instead, the government would be required to prove you guilty by competent evidence beyond a reasonable doubt before the jury could find you guilty.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: In order to find you guilty, a jury of twelve people would have to agree unanimously that you were guilty.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: At that trial and at every stage of your case you would be entitled to the assistance of a lawyer and if you could not afford a lawyer one would be appointed to represent you at public expense free of charge.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: During a trial the witnesses for the government would have to come to court and testify in your presence and your lawyer could cross-examine those witnesses as well as object to evidence offered by the government against you.

Your lawyer could also offer evidence on your own behalf if you so desired and you would have the right to have subpoenas issued or other process used to compel witnesses to testify in your defense.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: At a trial, although you would have the right to testify if you chose to do so, you would also have the right not to testify. And if you chose not to testify, then no one, including the jury, could draw any inference or suggestion of guilt from the fact that you did not testify.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Before trial you would have an opportunity

to seek suppression or exclusion of some or all of the evidence that the government may use against you at trial.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: If you were convicted at a trial, you would have the right to appeal that verdict.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: If you plead guilty you will also have to give up your right not to incriminate yourself because I may ask you questions about what you did in order to satisfy myself that you are guilty as charged and you will have to admit and acknowledge your guilt.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: If you plead guilty and if I accept your plea, you will give up your right to a trial and the other rights that I have just mentioned other than your right to a lawyer, which you plead whether or not you plead guilty, but there will be no trial and I will enter a judgment of guilty and sentence you on the basis of your plea after I have received a report prepared by the United States probation department and any submissions that I receive from your lawyers and from the lawyers for the government, but there will be no trial and there will be no appeal with respect to whether the

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government could or could not use the evidence that it has against you or with respect to whether you did or did not commit the offense charged in Count Twenty of the indictment.

Do you understand all of that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Even now as you are entering this plea you have the right to change your mind, plead not guilty to Count Twenty of the indictment and to go to trial.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: Do you understand each and every one of the rights that I have just explained to you?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: And are you willing to give up your right to a trial and the other rights that I have just discussed with you?

THE DEFENDANT: I am.

THE COURT: Do you understand that you are charged in Count Twenty with operating an illegal gambling business in violation of title 18 United States Code Sections 1955 and 2.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I understand.

THE COURT: Mr. Naftalis, would you please state the elements of that offense.

MR. NAFTALIS: Yes, your Honor. If the government — if the case were to go to trial the government would prove the

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following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

First, that the gambling business charged in the indictment violated the laws of the State of New York; second, that the gambling business was in substantially continuous operation for a period in excess of 30 days or had gross revenues of \$2,000 or more in any one day; and third, that five or more persons, including the defendant, knowingly conducted, financed, managed, supervised, directed or owned the gambling The gambling business at issue here is an illegal business. poker game that violates New York penal law section 225.05. The elements of that state offense are that the defendant knowingly advanced or profited from an unlawful gambling activity.

> Thank you. THE COURT:

Mrs. Bloom, do you understand that if you were to go to trial the government would have to prove each of those elements beyond a reasonable doubt before the jury could find you quilty?

> THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: Now let me tell you about the possible maximum penalties for this crime. By maximum I mean the most that could possibly be imposed upon you. It doesn't necessarily mean that this is what you will receive. have to understand that by pleading guilty you are exposing yourself to a combination of punishments up to the maximum that

I'm about to describe.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: First, let me tell you about the possible restrictions on your liberty. The crime charged in Count Twenty carries a maximum term of imprisonment of five years which could be followed by up to three years of supervised release. Supervised release means that you would be subject to supervision by the probation department, there would be rules of supervised release that you would have to follow, and if you violated any of those rules you could be returned to prison to serve additional time without credit for the time you served on the underlying sentence and without any credit for time spent on postrelease supervision and you could be returned to prison without a jury trial as well.

Do you understand all of that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

THE COURT: You should understand that there is no parole in the federal system and that if you were sentenced to prison you would not be released early on parole. There is a limited opportunity to earn credit for good behavior. But if you are sentenced to prison you would have to serve at least 85 percent of the time to which you were sentenced.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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THE COURT: In addition to these restrictions on your liberty, the maximum possible punishment also includes certain financial penalties. The maximum allowable fine is the greatest of \$250,000, twice the gross pecuniary gain or financial gain derived from the offense or twice the gross pecuniary loss to someone other than you as a result of the offense; second, I can order restitution to any person or entity injured as a result of your criminal conduct.

> Mr. Naftalis, is there any restitution at issue here? MR. NAFTALIS: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Third, I can order you to forfeit all property derived from the offense or used to facilitate the offense. And I note in that regard that in the plea agreement we will talk about shortly you admit to the forfeiture allegations with respect to Count Twenty of the indictment and agree to forfeit to the United States a sum of money totaling \$125,000. Finally, I must order a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

Do you understand that these are the possible maximum penalties?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Are you a citizen of the United States, Ms. Bloom?

> THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I am.

THE COURT: Do you understand that by pleading guilty

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you may lose certain valuable civil rights to the extent that you have them or could otherwise obtain them now such as the right to vote, the right to serve on a jury, the right to hold public office, and the right to possess any kind of firearm?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I understand.

THE COURT: Are you serving any other sentence, either state or federal, or being prosecuted in any other court at this time?

> THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: Do you understand that if your lawyer or anyone else has attempted to predict what your sentence will be in this case that their predictions could be wrong?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: It's important for you to understand that no one, not your lawyer, not the lawyers for the government, no one can give you any assurance of what your sentence will be in this case and that is because your sentence will be determined by me and by me alone. I'm not going to do that today. Instead, I will wait until I receive the report I mentioned earlier prepared by the United States probation department. That report will spell out the probation department's view of how the United States Sentencing Guidelines apply to your case. I will do my own independent calculation of the quidelines range and consider that as well as any possible departures from that range. I will consider any submissions that I receive

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from your lawyers and from the lawyers for the government. I will consider the factors set forth in a statute Title 18 United States Code Section 3553(a). I'll do all of that before determining and imposing an appropriate sentence on you. Do you understand all of that? THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do. THE COURT: Have you discussed these matters with your lawyers? THE DEFENDANT: I have. THE COURT: Even if your sentence is different from what your lawyer or anyone else has told you that it might be, even if it is different from what you expect or hope it to be, and even if it is different from what may be contained in the plea agreement with the government that we'll talk about in a moment, you will still be bound by your guilty plea and you will not be allowed to withdraw that plea. Do you understand that? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. THE COURT: Now I understand that there is a written plea agreement that you and your lawyers have entered into with the lawyers from the government; is that correct? THE DEFENDANT: Yes. That's correct. THE COURT: I have an original of that letter plea

agreement here dated November 22, 2013 from Assistant United

States Attorney Harris Fischman and others to your lawyer, Jim

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Walden. I will mark this as Court Exhibit 2 and provide it to the government to retain in its possession following these proceedings.

Did you sign the plea agreement on the last page and date it today, December 12, 2013? Is that your signature?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is.

THE COURT: Before you signed that, did you read it?

THE DEFENDANT: I did.

THE COURT: And did you discuss it with your lawyers?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: And before you signed it, did you understand it?

THE DEFENDANT: I did. I do.

THE COURT: Did they answer all of your questions about the agreement?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: I'm not sure I mentioned that I marked it Court Exhibit 2, I think I did. But I have and will provide it to the government to retain after these proceedings.

THE DEFENDANT: Marked what?

MR. WALDEN: Exhibit 2.

THE COURT: One of the features of your agreement with the government is that you have agreed on the guidelines range, that is the range under the United States Sentencing Guidelines, that applies in your case; is that correct?

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THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: And you should understand that that agreement is binding on you and it is binding on the government but it is not binding on me. As I mentioned earlier, I have my own independent obligation to determine the correct guidelines range. I'm not suggesting to you that I will come up with a different calculation than the one set forth in your agreement but I could; and even if I did and even if that range were higher than the one in the agreement, you would still be bound by your guilty plea and you would not be allowed to withdraw your plea.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Counsel, I note that there appears to be some sort of writing and then crossed out on the back there. I take it that is not part of the --

MR. NAFTALIS: That is not -- those are some notes that were -- that will be crossed out.

THE COURT: Very good.

Is that correct, Mr. Walden?

MR. WALDEN: Yes, your Honor. Mr. Naftalis was kind enough to alert me to that and it's fine, your Honor.

THE COURT: Very good.

Another feature of your agreement, Ms. Bloom, is that you have agreed to waive your right to appeal or otherwise

challenge any sentence within or below the stipulated sentencing guidelines range of 0 to 6 months imprisonment.

That means that if I sentence you to six months in prison or anything less than six months in prison that you would not have the right to appeal or otherwise try to challenge that sentence.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Does this written plea agreement constitute your complete and total understanding of the entire agreement between you and the government?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it does.

THE COURT: Has anything been left out of this written plea agreement?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: Other than what is written in the agreement has anyone made any promise or offered you any inducement to plead guilty or to sign the plea agreement?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: Has anyone threatened you or forced you to plead guilty or to sign the plea agreement?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: Has anyone made any promise to you as to what your sentence will be in this case?

THE DEFENDANT: No.

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THE COURT: Ms. Bloom, I'd like you to tell me now in your own words what you did that makes you believe that you are quilty of the crime charged in Count Twenty of the indictment.

THE DEFENDANT: During 2010 I helped conduct a poker game for a group of regular players. During this time there was at least five employees, including myself, who helped to conduct the games. The coordinators of the games, including me, took a rake meaning we took a portion of the players' money during the games to pay expenses and salaries including our own. The rake was in excess of \$2,000 on any one night. The games occurred in Manhattan. I believed that it was a misdemeanor.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Walden, do you agree that Ms. Bloom's belief that it was a misdemeanor, which is still in violation of the law, is obviously -- or is not a valid defense to the felony charge at issue here?

MR. WALDEN: That is my -- that is correct, your Honor.

THE COURT: And are you aware of any valid defense that would prevail at trial or do you know of any reason that Ms. Bloom should not be permitted to plead guilty?

MR. WALDEN: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Naftalis, are there any additional questions that you would like me to ask of Ms. Bloom?

MR. NAFTALIS: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Would you please summarize what the government's evidence would be if the defendant were to go to trial on Count Twenty.

MR. NAFTALIS: Yes, your Honor.

The government would prove if the case were to go to trial through witness testimony, Title III intercepts, search warrants, and bank records that the defendant operated a high stakes illegal poker game in Manhattan; that the clients of these poker games often included celebrities and Wall Street financiers, and that the games were often held in hotel rooms including the Plaza Hotel.

THE COURT: Do both counsel agree that there is a sufficient factual basis for a guilty plea to Count Twenty?

MR. NAFTALIS: Yes, your Honor.

MR. WALDEN: We do, your Honor.

THE COURT: Does either counsel know of any reason that I should not accept the defendant's plea of guilty to Count Twenty?

MR. NAFTALIS: No, your Honor.

MR. WALDEN: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Ms. Bloom, because you acknowledge that you are, in fact, guilty as charged in Count Twenty of the indictment, because I am satisfied that you know of your rights including your right to go to trial, that you are aware of the consequences of your plea including the sentence that could be

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imposed upon you, and because I find that you are knowingly and voluntarily pleading guilty, I accept your guilty plea and enter a judgment of guilty on Count Twenty of the indictment.

The probation department will want to interview you in connection with the report that I mentioned earlier. If you choose to speak to the probation department, make sure that anything you say is truthful and accurate. Aside from the fact that that is required by law, that report is important to me in determining the sentence to impose upon you. Before sentencing you and your lawyers will have an opportunity to review the report. I urge you to review it with care and if you find any mistakes in it or anything you want to bring to my attention in connection with your sentencing, share those things with your lawyers so that they can do so.

Do you understand that? Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

THE COURT: Mr. Walden, do you or any of your colleagues wish to be present in connection with that interview?

MR. WALDEN: Please, your Honor.

THE COURT: I will order that no interview take place unless counsel is present.

Sentencing will be set for April 30, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

I direct the government to provide the probation department with its factual statement of the offense within seven days.

Defense counsel must arrange for the defendant to be interviewed by the probation department within the next two weeks. I refer counsel to my individual rules and practices for criminal cases which contain some guidelines and rules with respect to sentencing and sentencing submissions. In accordance with those rules, defense submissions are due two weeks prior to sentencing and the government's submissions are due one week prior to sentencing.

Mr. Naftalis, any objection to the defendant's present bond conditions being continued through the date of the sentencing?

MR. NAFTALIS: No, your Honor. But I believe Mr. Walden has an application to revise them.

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Walden.

MR. WALDEN: Yes, your Honor.

Obviously Ms. Bloom has made every court appearance without any problems, no adverse reports from the pretrial services office, and has accepted responsibility at today's proceeding. We'd ask between now and the time of her sentencing that all domestic travel restrictions be released and that she be able to travel freely domestically. Obviously she will not travel internationally without seeking permission from the government and permission from the Court.

THE COURT: Any objection, Mr. Naftalis?

MR. NAFTALIS: No, your Honor. I assume by domestic

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we mean the Continental U.S.

THE COURT: That was my intention to limit it to the

3 Continental U.S.

MR. WALDEN: I'm sorry, your Honor. That's perfect.

THE COURT: I will modify the terms of bail to allow Ms. Bloom to travel within the Continental United States. other travel would require prior permission from me.

Ms. Bloom, you should understand that all of the conditions upon which you have been released until today as modified a moment ago will continue to apply through the date of your sentence. You should also understand that any violation of those conditions could have very serious consequences for you at the time of sentencing. And finally, you should understand that you must be in this courtroom on the date and time that I set for sentencing and if you are not you will be quilty of a separate crime, namely bail jumping, and could be subject to a fine and/or term of imprisonment in addition to whatever you receive in connection with your plea.

Do you understand all of that?

THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor.

THE COURT: Lastly, I have a consent preliminary order of forfeiture here which appears to have been signed by the defendant and defense counsel.

Mr. Walden, any objection to my signing and docketing this order?

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               MR. WALDEN: None whatsoever, your Honor.
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               THE COURT: I will do so.
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               Anything further, Mr. Naftalis?
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               MR. NAFTALIS: No, your Honor. Thank you.
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               THE COURT: Mr. Walden?
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               MR. WALDEN: No, sir.
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               THE COURT: All right. I will stay on the bench but
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      the matter is adjourned.
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               Thank you.
               (Adjourned)
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